



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
09/15/2021	Virtual	8:30 AM	2:30 PM

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Karla Valness	kvalness@oda.state.or.us	503.986.4554

Meeting recording available at:

Part 1 of 2 (agenda items 1-6) <https://youtu.be/gHQpMwDJpcY>

Part 2 of 2 (agenda items 7-9) <https://youtu.be/onDwEs6nZQ4>

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 (Audio = 0:00)

Agenda Item 01

Chair Stephanie Hallock called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed. Guests on-line were asked to use the chat box to sign-in.

- Board members present: Chair Stephanie Hallock, Vice-chair Bryan Harper, Chad Allen, Barbara Boyer, Shantae Johnson, Elin Miller, Tyson Raymond, Luisa Santamaria, Randi Svaty, Josh Zielinski, ODA Director Alexis Taylor, OSU Dean Alan Sams
- Others present: Lisa Hanson, Lauren Henderson, Jess Paulson, Isaak Stapleton, Stephanie Page, Rusty Rock, Sunny Summers, Jonathan Sandau, Jim Johnson, Karla Valness, Andrea Cantu-Schomus, Mike Odenthal, Sherri Noxel, Tami Kerr, Les Ruark, Whitley Schiller, Amy Wong, Tammy Dennee, Tiffany Monroe, Allison Myers, Hillary Foote, Dave Losh, Mary Anne Cooper, John O’Keeffe, Linda Strand, Casey Grogan, Robin Frojen, Martina Ferrari, Allison Myers, Cassie Bouska, Meghan Crane, Jessica Jansen, Jeff Stone, Erick Garman, Anne Johnson, Lauren Courter, Keegan Sanchez, Jan Lee, Sam Angima, Annie Blietz, Bonny Jo Peterson, Jennifer Hart, Larry Bailey, Jill Spinks, Jesse Nelson.

Approval of minutes (Audio = 05:25)

Draft minutes from the May 19, 2021, board meeting was presented for review and approval.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Elin Miller to approve the minutes with no changes or corrections. Seconded by Josh Zielinski. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Director’s report (Audio = 06:13)

Director Taylor updated the Board on agency business and the following items:

- WASDA Annual Meeting – As the current president of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA) Oregon hosted the 2021 WASDA virtual annual meeting July 27-28. The focus of the meeting was “Working to Build a More Resilient Agricultural Supply Chain”. Director Taylor’s term as president

ends at the end of September. Also on the meeting agenda was a disaster roundtable discussion with the other western region states and the discussion will continue at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) annual meeting later this month. Working at the western region and nationally with NASDA to seek federal support for disaster assistance.

- Disaster Roundtable – US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack was in Oregon recently to meet with Governor Brown and industry representatives to discuss the natural disasters and the impacts on the agricultural industry.
- Agency budget – the ODA has a strong budget for the 2021-23 biennium; however, the agency will be in a rebuilding mode and working to hire and fill vacant positions that had been left open due to budget cut lists and some new additional positions. ODA Plant Program Director Dr. Helmuth Rogg has retired and to help during the interim, Isaak Stapleton will be the interim Plant Program Director and Food Safety Program Manager Rusty Rock will serve as the interim Food Safety Program Director until those positions can be filled on a permanent basis.
- ODA is working with employees to meet the State vaccination mandate requirements. Employees must submit proof of vaccination or have an approved medical exception, or an exception based on a strongly held religious belief in place by October 18, 2021.
- Director Taylor thanked Stephanie Hallock and Tyson Raymond for eight years of service on the Board.
- Governor Kate Brown’s office is currently accepting interest forms for one producer position and one public member position to fill the vacancies left by Stephanie Hallock and Tyson Raymond. The target is to have new members appointed prior to the next Board meeting.

Agenda Item 02 – Oregon Department of Agriculture budget and legislative updates (Audio = 15:40)

Deputy Director Lisa Hanson presented an overview of the ODA 2021-23 Legislatively Adopted Budget with the Board. Deputy Director Hanson also reviewed the ODA 2021-23 Agency Wide Prioritized Program List and explained how this list is used in budget development work at the ODA.

Resource:

- ODA 2021-23 Legislatively Adopted Budget Summary
- ODA 2021-23 Prioritized Program List Agency Wide

Agenda Item 03 – Industry Panel – Impacts of natural disasters (Audio = 35:50)

Industry representatives John O’Keeffe - Oregon Cattlemen’s Association - Livestock and feed, Linda Strand, Oregon Raspberry/Blackberry Commission, Casey Grogan, Silver Bells Tree Farm - Christmas trees, Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau - statewide impact and update on a state-level disaster assistance package spoke to the board about the impacts of natural disasters to their industry sectors and communities. Board members also shared impacts they have experienced and from the communities around the state. Board member Josh Zielinski commented on USDA Secretary Vilsack’s visit to Oregon to learn more about the disaster impacts and see some of the damages firsthand.

Many agricultural associations have been working with the Governor’s office, Legislative leadership, and our federal delegation to craft state and federal assistance programs and discussing the gaps or policy challenges with existing programs and where farmers may be having difficulty accessing disaster assistance.

Resource:

- Excessive Heat Damage to Christmas trees in PNW presentation
- Oregon Farm Bureau – Oregon Ag Natural Disaster Briefing Paper

Agenda Item 04 – Cultivating Change Foundation – OSU Chapter (Audio = 02:06:00)

Robin Frojen and Martina Ferrari Co-Advisors of OSU’s Cultivating Change Foundation Collegiate Affiliate gave an overview of the chapter. OSU’s collegiate affiliate chapter is the 5th in the nation and the 1st west of the Mississippi. The mission of the foundation is to valuing and elevating LGBTQ+ agriculturists through advocacy, education, and community.

The advisors thanked OSU’s College of Agricultural Sciences and the Oregon agriculture community for the continued support and look forward to creating opportunities to connect and continue to support the next generation of farmers.

Resource:

- Cultivating Change – OSU Chapter presentation

Agenda Item 05 - Public Comment (Audio = 02:20:55)

Chair Stephanie Hallock acknowledged the receipt of written comments from four individuals/organizations. Written comments were distributed to board members and posted on the ODA website prior to the meeting.

Item	Name	Topic
Item 01	Jennifer Hart Black Gold Springs, LLC	Portland Water Bureau proposed filtration plant and pipes in prime Ag Land and a rural reserve
Item 02	Amy Wong Friends of Family Farmers	Agenda Item 3 – Impacts of Natural Disasters
Item 03	Larry Bailey Multnomah County Farm Bureau	Portland Water Bureau – Bull Run Filtration Project
Item 04	Jill Spinks Craig Spinks Nursery, Inc	Portland Water Bureau – Bull Run Filtration Project

Verbal comments were heard from two individuals/organizations.

Speaker	Name	Topic
1	Lauren Courter Cottrell Community Planning Organization	Opposition to the City of Portland's proposed \$1B water filtration facility on 100+ acres of prime farmland in rural Multnomah and Clackamas counties
2	Jesse Nelson	Portland Water Bureau wanting to convert nearly 100 acres of contiguous high value farmland into an industrial complex.

Resource:

- Agenda Item 05 – Written Public Comments September 2021

Break

The meeting reconvened at 10:45 am.

Agenda Item 06 – Promoting Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Preventing Substance Use in Oregon (Audio = 02:43:47)

Allison Myers, OSU College of Public Health & Human Services, Cassie Bouska, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Meghan Crane, Oregon Health Authority gave presentations to the board about work being done to better understand the challenges and the programs available to provide resources to promote mental health, suicide prevention and reduce opioid abuse in Oregon.

Even before the pandemic and the other difficult events of 2020 and 2021, mental health, suicide, and substance use disorders have been significant challenges in our communities in Oregon. We have only seen these challenges grow during the COVID-19 public health crisis. COVID-19 has added feelings of isolation onto conditions that already feel very isolating to those who experience them.

ODA received a federal grant to provide funding to OSU for rural mental health outreach and education. We had been hopeful that we would be able to expand that grant to fund additional collaborative work with OSU and OHA, but even though that additional funding was not approved by USDA, we know there are other opportunities to collaborate and support Oregon communities.

Resource:

- Coast to Forest Program, OSU College of Public Health & Human Services presentation
- Farmer and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences presentations
- Oregon Suicide County List
- Injury and Violence Prevention Programs, Oregon Health Authority

Lunch Break

The meeting reconvened at 12:30 pm.

Agenda Item 07 – ODA Hemp Program (Audio = 00:01:12)

Assistant Director Lauren Henderson, ODA Cannabis Policy Coordinator and Michael Odenthal, ODA Hemp Program Manager provided an overview of Hemp in Oregon for the Board. The presentation included an overview, staffing, Farm Bill and 2021 Legislative Session and Enforcement-Operation Table Rock.

As of September 6, 2021, the ODA has 752 registered growers, 392 registered handlers and 7,175 registered acres which is less than last year. The numbers continue to change frequently.

ODA continues to hire additional staff in the Hemp Program to fill the 12 positions in the program including Mike Odenthal as the new Hemp Program Manager. Mike previously served as the lead investigator in the ODA Pesticides Program.

2014 Farm Bill authorized states to develop pilot programs. ODA started issuing hemp registrations in 2015. 2018 Farm Bill changed the definition of hemp, created a federal program within USDA, states that want to regulate hemp will submit plans to USDA for review/approval.

During the 2021 Legislative session, HB 3000 provided ODA the authority to meet requirements under USDA final rules to become a 2018 Farm Bill compliant state. The bill also addressed many broad issues related to Cannabis in Oregon.

ODA has filed temporary rules related to the implementing elements of HB 3000 and will facilitate additional rulemaking as necessary.

ODA plans to submit the state plan in late September or early October to USDA.

HB 2284 created a new Oregon Hemp Commission. Commodity Commissions focus on research, education, and non-branded promotion activities. Recruitment for temporary commissioners will begin in September. The Commission will begin rulemaking in January.

The presentation concluded with Mike Odenthal providing the board with an overview and status update on Operation Table Rock enforcement project in southern Oregon.

Resource:

- Hemp in Oregon Overview presentation

Agenda Item 08 – Agriculture in the Classroom (Audio = 01:07:15)

Executive Director Jessica Jansen of the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Program provided an overview of the program to the Board. The mission of the program is to help students grow in the knowledge of agriculture, the environment, and natural resources for the benefit of Oregonians today and in the future. The program works primarily with teachers and educators across all education environments in Oregon including K-12, public, private, homeschool, afterschool, extracurricular programs in all 36 counties of Oregon. Major programs include the Lending Library, Activity Kits, Lesson Plans for teachers available on-line, Agricultural Literacy Project, Calendar Art Contest, Get Oregonized history book written for students grades 3-5, and over the past year Virtual Field Trips. During the 2020-2021 school year the AITC program reached 304,460 students, 4,127 educators and distribute 2,049 activity kits. AITC is a private non-profit organization funded by donations and grants.

Resource:

- Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Presentation
- 2021-22 Oregon AITC Resource Guide

Agenda Item 09 - Board Business (Audio = 1:23:25)

ODA Program Area Reports

Chair Hallock thanked the ODA program areas for the recent quarterly reports prepared for the Board.

Resource:

- ODA Program Area Updates to the Board May 2021

OWEB Report

Barbara Boyer reported the last OWEB virtual meeting was held on July 27. During the meeting, OWEB announced staffing changes – Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden has accepted a new position as the Supervisor of the Mt Hood

National Forest beginning in October and Deputy Director Renee Davis has stepped down as Deputy to accept a new position at OWEB.

Barbara will now serve as the Co-Chair of the OWEB board.

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Recommendations

Director Taylor reviewed for new Board members the role the Board must recommend four farmer/rancher representatives and one Ag Water Quality representative who serve on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Currently one farmer/rancher representatives' term will expire on January 1, 2022. As outlined in the memo to the Board, members have the option to recommend the re-appointment of Mr. Doug Kraemer to a second term or solicit applications to fill the farmer/rancher position.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Barbara Boyer to recommend Doug Kraemer be appointed to a second term on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Seconded by Elin Miller. No discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item:

ODA will prepare a letter for Vice-Chair Harper's signature to be sent to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board with the recommendation.

Resource:

- Memo to the Board – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Recommendations

Review of Public Comment

Board members had a brief discussion regarding the public comments on the proposed Portland Water Bureau water filtration project. ODA's Land Use & Water Planning Coordinator Jim Johnson is aware of the project and has been talking with Multnomah County and members of the public and providing technical assistance around land use laws. To date no application has been submitted to Multnomah County for the project that would be open for public comment. Board members asked ODA to follow the project and to provide an update at a future meeting. Board members formed a workgroup including Elin Miller, Barbara Boyer, Josh Zielinski, and Chad Allen to follow the project.

2022 Meeting Dates

Board members discussed setting meeting dates for 2022. The Board meets at least once quarterly each year. Future meetings will be held in-person, if possible, and will likely have a virtual component. Possible in-person meeting locations include Tillamook, Corvallis, Salem, and Ontario.

Action Item:

ODA will send a Doodle poll to Board members to identify possible meeting dates for 2022.

Resource:

- Memo to the Board – 2022 Meeting Dates and Locations

Newsletter Topics

Suggested topics for the Board newsletter included: a summary of the industry comments on natural disaster impacts; highlights of the OSU related programs on today's meeting agenda – Cultivating Change OSU Chapter, Mental Health Programs including the Oregon Health Authority Programs, and Agriculture in the Classroom.

Additional topic

Director Taylor and Board members expressed thanks to Chair Hallock for her year serving as chair of the Board and to both Stephanie Hallock and Tyson Raymond for eight years of service on the State Board of Agriculture. Stephanie Hallock and Tyson Raymond commented on their time and service on the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

**Next virtual meeting:
November 30-December 1, 2021**

DRAFT